

President: The honourable member's point was that these violent types should be treated.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: I want to know whether any sort of medicine is administered to them.

Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan: Could they be treated and cured if they become members of the State Congress?

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: Sir, we shall not be tarnished with blackbrushes like this.

President: It was intended as a joke, but I think that it was better not to have said that. I hope no offence was meant by the honourable member.

Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan: I did not mean any offence, Sir.

Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai: Present day treatment does not admit of the use of many depressent drugs in insanity. Treatment is mostly psychical and must be left to the discretion of the doctor. About the Chengannur dispensary being converted into a hospital, Chengannur is only 9 miles from Mavelikara and 6 miles from Tiruvalla.

President: The honourable member has exceeded his time.

The demand was then put to vote and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND III—PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai: Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 2,98,409 under Demand III—Public Health and Sanitation.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: Sir, I oppose the demand. My reason for opposing the demand is to bring to the notice of the Government and the Director of Public Health the urgent need of the people who live in the water-logged area of Kuttanad. The most essential thing that is required to preserve the health of the public is the supply of good drinking water which is not available in Kuttanad. The water that is being used by us for drinking purposes may be compared with the water of the Cooum river that flows through the city of Madras. The peculiarity of our rivers is that when any animal dies near the banks of the river up in the country, what the people do is to throw the carcase in the river which is taken down to our parts and they are kept in the water floating up and down according to the ebb and flow of the back-water. Further, anyone who has gone by boat from Alleppey to Changanachery might have observed a sort of small sheds on the banks projecting to the river. These are latrines of the people

[Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar.]

living on both sides of the river. Sir, it is this water that we are drinking. I asked a medical man about the qualities of this water. He told me that we are consuming filthy matter every day, though in very small quantities. Generally, friends from Trivandrum or from other parts who come to our place hesitate to drink this water. It is high time for the Government to open their eyes to this state of affairs and I would impress upon the Director of Public Health to consider this problem in all seriousness. With these words, I oppose the demand.

Mr. R. V. Thomas : Sir, I oppose the demand. I should like to impress upon the Government that the amounts allotted for public health and sanitation is not adequate. For a progressive State like Travancore everybody would expect that some bigger amount will be allotted to be spent on public health and sanitary activities which are conducive to the welfare of the people. Fell diseases like malaria, cholera, tuberculosis, &c., snatch a heavy toll of human life every year. I concede that the problem of urban sanitation is satisfactorily solved but the rural needs in regard to this are yet to be looked into. Sir, all the major towns of the State have been provided with amenities such water supply and drainage, while the rural Travancore is deplorably left in the lurch. Sir, the backbone of the State is the agricultural population who inhabit the rural parts. And it is in these parts that contagious diseases like malaria, typhoid and even tuberculosis do havoc. Government have not formulated any scheme so far as rural sanitation is concerned in order to eradicate these fell diseases. In this connection I would like to point out to Government that even though provision is made in some places to give free anti-typhoid injections, the opportunity is not availed of by the people to the extent desirable. The Government officers responsible for this work seem to be very slow to educate the people on that particular point. Anyhow the opportunity afforded by Government is not utilised to the best advantage. I would also request the Surgeon-General to issue some circulars to the medical officers of the respective hospitals of the State to the effect that they should advertise the advantageous effects of anti-typhoid and anti-tuberculosis injections in some prominent place in the hospitals. Unless some such advertisements are made to attract the public these opportunities will not be availed of by them. I would also like to point out to the Government that they should not pay heed to the suggestions made by certain honourable members that special legislations should be enacted in respect of birth control or birth prevention and this

should be initiated by the Government. I am of the view that Government should not take part in such pernicious propaganda and they should not tolerate the same in the State. Sir, my religion also does not allow me to be a party in the matter of doing propaganda for birth control or birth prevention. I am glad to note in this connection that Government have not indicated their willingness to take up the suggestion made to them. If there is any propaganda which is intended to be made, it should be free from such things as birth control and birth prevention.

Turning to my constituency I must say that the fell disease, anthrax, is very rampant there. Many people are yearly being taken away by this disease. I am given to understand that this anthrax will very easily spread from the animals to human system. I would also like to urge the attention of the Health Director to the fact that there were two cases of anthrax infected men and in some cases the infection was very great. I would like to request the Director of Public Health to give some very efficient and material propaganda as well as treatment for anthrax in places where the disease is observed.

Mr. Eric Hall (*Travancore Planters*): Sir, there is one matter which deserves Government's attention. This country is becoming invaded by starving dogs. I have had several cases of rabid dogs in my own District. This is not a matter to be taken lightly. It is regrettable to see that nothing is done to remedy the danger of these miserable canines increasing all over the country. If the department can arrange, or the officer in the District can arrange, for persons to go round with guns and shoot them, it will be safer for the people. It will be a boon to the country if all these dogs are done away with.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, I oppose the demand. It appears that the activities of the Director are to be confined to the capital and neighbouring parts alone and he has not given any sort of attention to the northern parts. He has not even visited the public offices in my constituency. The facilities even for the elementary necessities are absent there. I heard the Director say in the other House that it was not possible to supply good water to people at Vadakkekara pakuthi in Parur taluk. I can't understand the reasons for that, Sir. The Director may not have even visited the place. This is an important place in Parur taluk. It has a population of more than 40,000 persons and an area of nearly 4 sq. miles. The land tax that we pay amounts to more than Rs. 26,000. The excise revenue from that area exceeds a lakh of rupees. The whole area is water-logged, surrounded on all sides by salt water and fully planted with cocoanut plants. It is not at all justifiable to say that good drinking water cannot be obtained.

[G. Narayana Aiyar.]

in a place surrounded by salt water. Probably this is a neglected corner to which the attention of the Director has never reached. This state of affairs is highly regrettable. Tube wells or the sinking of other kinds of wells is the best method for getting good drinking water in such places. The experiment has succeeded in various other places. In Alleppey and other such places the supply of good drinking water was found possible and is facilitated. But in this place, where the people are very poor and hard hit by the low price of cocoanut products and where they badly need good drinking water, there is nothing done. I request the Public Health Director to visit the locality at once. He will then be struck with the distressed condition of the people and find out the means of supplying them with good drinking water.

As I said, the Director might not have visited our place. There is a Munsiff's Court in Perumpavur. It is located in the Sathram House. It is now twenty-five years since the Government sanctioned the necessary amount, for constructing a suitable building. There is no urinal attached to the present court house. The attention of the High Court and the Government was drawn to this and allotments have been made. But, afterwards nothing is being done. People use the court premises as their urinal. The sanitary officer is helpless. Perumpavur has now become a big mosquito centre. The reason for this is unknown. I would request the Director to visit the place and to do all that is possible to improve the sanitary condition of the place. The people there also deserve all help from the Government. They also pay Government tax just as others.

I oppose the demand, with these words.

Mr. N. V. Chacko: Sir, I wish to speak supporting Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar's statement. Parur is a very unhealthy place. In the taluks of Muvattupuzha and Kunnathnad, there are several malarial places. In the Devicoolam taluk in spite of the good and efficient Hospital maintained by the K. D. H. P. company, several places are being ravaged by malaria. Even typhoid and Pneumonia are becoming almost as common as cold in these taluks. Probably most of the people in the taluk of Parur are subject to the hook-worm disease. These diseases are easily communicated from person to person and place to place.

As to good drinking water, I would like to say that the Alwaye river water can be taken to the Vadakkekara area in the Parur taluk. If people in Cochin can divert the water from the Alwaye river for their use, why not utilise the good water that we have in this way.

The District Court compound, though a big one, is over flooded with water during rainy season. The water does not flow out of the compound ; it has either to sink down or evaporate. The condition of the place is very unsatisfactory and insanitary.

Then a word about the markets. In most of the markets in Travancore there is no satisfactory sanitary arrangement but in sanitation seems to be concerned there. While I was travelling from Alwaye along the public roads, I was chased by a bad smell for some seconds even though the vehicle was running at thirty miles speed, due to the insanitary condition of the public roads. To remove this condition and to make more sanitary arrangements and also to maintain public health, more hospitals are required in North Travancore. In fact, some of the existing hospitals in these parts are not kept in good condition. There are cases where people have got infection from the hospital. The Public Health Director is not aware of these facts. He is not seen in these places. Probably he is leaving us to shift for ourselves. I would request the Director to extend his vision and attention to those places and improve the condition of the people there.

Mr. James Fletcher : Sir, I take this opportunity of bringing to the notice of the House the fact that many of the northern pakuthies of Neyyattinkara, Vilavankod, and Kalculam are having malaria in a very severe form. I am aware that Government have sent a few doctors and members of the Sanitary Department to do whatever they can and after all, the result has been that malaria caused the death of many people. Those who escaped death are now seen to be unfit for any exertion. Those who were once attacked by malaria and escaped death are unfit for anything whatever. Though they have escaped death they are getting the fever now and then. I am doubting whether the treatment given them is satisfactory. To my mind the malaria is a tropical disease and that could be prevented or cured only by tropical medicines. The English medicine is not the proper remedy for administering to malaria attacked people. Those who have taken the English medicine have become thin and pale. That is the effect that English medicine, quinine, has brought about to the health of the people who have survived the disease. I would therefore suggest to the department to try as an experiment the Siddha system of treatment. I have consulted the All-Travancore Siddha Vaidya Sangham to try their treatment in a few pakuthies. The vaidyans are prepared, have kindly offered, to accept living wages and to take up some pakuthies as an experimental measure. They have also undertaken to instruct the people of these pakuthies about the herbs and other medicines that have to be administered, so that

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they can spread that useful knowledge to the neighbouring pakuthies. I would request the Director of Public Health to try that experiment in the taluks of Neyyattinkara, Vilavankod and Kalkulam where malaria is prevalent.

The next point I would desire to place before the House is the insanitary condition of coastal villages like Vizhinjam, Colachel and the Cape. Anybody who goes to any of these villages will find that these villages are very dangerous centres, centres with all sorts of infected diseases. Sir, the strength of a chain is in its weakest link. Similarly, the health of the country depends upon the most insanitary and unhealthy place in the country. We are also aware of the fact that whenever cholera or other such water-borne disease crops up, it has always started in these coastal villages. I would therefore suggest to the Director of Public Health to inspect these villages and to see that their sanitary condition is improved.

I may also bring to the notice of the House the fact that good drinking water is not available anywhere along the coast from Trivandrum to Cape, especially in the neighbourhood of Muttam and such other places. It is the duty of the Public Health Department to find out means of giving these people good drinking water; otherwise, they will contract diseases from the dirty water which alone is now available to them; and then Government will have to spend much more money than they would now have to spend in supplying them with good drinking water.

With these words, I resume my seat.

Mr. K. M. Korah : Sir, Mr. Anantasiva Aiyar has already explained the nature of the water that we in Kuttanad use for drinking purposes. To me, Sir, it appears that the reason why the grievances of Kuttanadians are not redressed is that the officials do not visit Kuttanad; and the reason for that again seems to be the bad condition of water there. Last year, an amount of Rs. 35,000 had been allotted for the construction of wells; but not a pie of it was spent. There was a time when we thought that it might be due to the want of officials from Kuttanad that our grievances were not redressed. But, at present, fortunately, we have two high officials belonging to Kuttanad. Am I to understand that they are not using their influence for redressing our grievances? From my short experience I find that Government do not seem to have any inclination to look to even some of our most important and urgent needs. I would earnestly draw the attention of Government to our need for good drinking water.

I shall pass on to the hardships caused to the people of Changanachery who go to the market there. The Changanachery market is the biggest market in the State. Unlike other towns, Changanachery has very few roads. Every one who wants to go to the market has necessarily to go along only one road, so much so, especially on market days, nobody can pass along that road without touching at last one leper. It is really a nuisance. The Changanachery Municipality has ample funds. May I request the Government to see to it that a beggar house is constructed somewhere in Changanachery and the beggars are compelled to remain there and are not allowed to roam about, especially those that are affected by serious diseases.

With these observations I resume my seat.

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : Sir, in regard to the need of Kuttanad for good drinking water, I may inform the House that, after careful investigation, the Water Works and Drainage Engineer has suggested the digging of about 35 deep-bore wells. Government propose to do this in the course of the next few years. The necessary boring equipment has been ordered and is expected early next year. The idea is to complete two wells every year.

In regard to malaria, it is true that there is a large number of people affected by the disease along the foot-hills of the country. The Medical Department and the Public Health Department are taking adequate steps to combat the spread of the disease. I may however inform the honourable member for Neyyattinkara that there is only one treatment for malaria, and that is the administration of quinine. Other systems have been tried and found failing invariably. Cinchona is grown in India. Therefore, if malaria is a tropical disease, cinchona is a tropical drug.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai : Does the member suggest that there is no medicine in *Siddha Vaidyam* for malaria?

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : After having conducted several experiments, I can assure the member that there is only one medicine for malaria, and that is quinine.

Mr. James Fletcher : Is the member prepared to try *Siddha Vaidyam* at least in one *pakuthi*?

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : It was tried and found to be of no avail.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai : Has any experiment been tried with the *Siddha system* of treatment?

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : Sir, human lives are too valuable to be experimented upon.

Mr James Fletcher : Is the member aware that many malarial patients are now being treated privately, not in hospitals—by *Siddha Vaidyans*, and that quite successfully?

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : Ignorant people are often misled by quacks ; I shall be failing in my duty if I do not dispel from the minds of honourable members the idea that there are other systems of treatment for malaria.

Mr. Nedmangad R. Kesavan Nair : Is it the honourable member's view that *Siddha Vaidyam* would result in fatalities in malaria cases?

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : Along with other systems, that system also has failed in curing malaria.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai : Does the member say that as a result of actual experience, or is it a mere dogmatic statement?

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : I do not dogmatise ; I am only giving out the results of experiments.

With regard to typhoid, Government have been pleased to include typhoid in the list of notifiable diseases ; and anti-typhoid inoculation has been carried on in places whence there has been demand.

Fortunately, there is no cholera now, and the department is able to concentrate its attention on malaria and typhoid.

In regard to rural sanitation, I can assure the House that conditions are very satisfactory in Travancore.

In regard to the need for posters to disseminate knowledge on typhoid, the department has many of such big posters in stock, and they have already been issued for being posted in hospitals, *pakuthi cutcherries* and other public buildings ; and I shall arrange for more of these posters being distributed to various centres.

Mr. R. V. Thomas : May I know whether these posters can be seen in all important centres?

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : Yes, Sir ; they have been posted on the walls of hospital and *pakuthi cutcherry* buildings.

Mr. R. V. Thomas : Can we find such posters in the taluk of Minachil?

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : Certainly.

Mr. R. V. Thomas : I can assure the honourable member that I have not seen any in Minachil.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla : May I know whether posters can cure diseases?

Mr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : They are intended to disseminate knowledge ; I referred to this question because it was suggested here that full information regarding such diseases should be given to the common people of the country. Further, Sir, the duty of the Public Health Department is mainly to disseminate knowledge of preventive medicine, and not to attempt to cure diseases which is the work of the Medical Department.

In regard to anthrax in some pakuthies of Minachil, I am told the Veterinary Department is taking intensive measures to combat the spread of the disease. The existence of anthrax in human beings was not brought to the notice of this department hitherto.

Mr. R. V. Thomas : May I know whether the honourable member will be pleased to take speeches made here as such notices hereafter ?

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : Certainly.

In regard to rabid dogs, they are certainly a source of nuisance in this country ; but the ideals of the Hindu religion do not permit people to deal cruelly with such dogs.

Mr. N. V. Chacko : Will other religionists be asked to deal with them ?

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : The S. P. C. A. which is composed of members belonging to all religions is taking care to deal with such dogs. In regard to the municipalities, the situation can be dealt with by introducing a bye-law for killing such dogs. If there is a legislation for the whole country to haul up all the dogs it will be easy. In other countries I may submit that there is such a legislation, that dogs without collars can be killed.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair : May I know from the member, whether the Public Health Department can appoint a man so that he can go about the whole country and shoot all the dogs ?

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : One man for several thousand dogs ! In this connection, I will submit that the District Magistrates have issued orders in certain localities for dealing with the situation.

In regard to the scarcity of drinking water in Vadakkekara, though the attempt that was made has been a failure, further attempts will be made to procure good drinking water.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : May I know whether the member has on any occasion visited Vadakkekara ?

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : I have visited Vadakkekara and also Munambam, a place further beyond. The necessity for the supply of good water was brought to my notice on several occasions. I may say that 5 wells are already in the course of construction.

Mr. N. V. Chako : May I know from the member whether he has tasted the water available in Vadakkekara ?

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : Sir, I belong to this country and I have tasted all varieties of water all over Travancore.

With regard to the construction of urinals in the Munsiffs' Courts and District Courts, I may submit that it is for the authorities concerned to have such public conveniences provided in places within their jurisdiction. The Public Health Department does not wish to trespass upon the jurisdiction of other departments.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : May I know from the member which is the authority whose attention has to be drawn in the matter ?

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : The Munsiff and the District Judge.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : For erection of urinals Munsiffs and District Judges have to be addressed !

President : The honourable member has referred to the High Court and the High Court is considering the matter.

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : Sir, it is true that there is hook-worm in Parur. The district hospital at Parur has made all arrangements to treat hook-worm cases.

With regard to the insanitary condition of the coastal villages, I may inform the honourable members that the coastal villages in Travancore are divided into 12 conservancy divisions and every effort is being made to make them sanitary and also to provide them with good drinking water. I am glad to inform the honourable members that in the last two or three years, there has been no epidemic of any kind in any of the coastal villages in Travancore.

Sir, in regard to the presence of beggars and lepers in the market at Changanachery, it is for the Municipality to take the necessary action by introducing a bye-law, as this is a matter which is beyond the purview of the Public Health Department.

Mr. R. V. Thomas : As a matter of personal explanation I wish to say this. In my speech I referred to the eradication of malaria, typhoid and other diseases, I think the Director of Public Health has stated in his reply that he wishes to prevent these diseases and not to treat them for which there is the Medical Department. What we wanted to suggest by our speeches was about the measures for preventing these diseases. If we wanted to say anything about the treatment of these diseases, certainly we would have made our speeches when the demand for the Medical Department came up. We only wanted to impress upon the Government the necessity for measures to prevent these diseases and to eradicate them completely and thereby improve the sanitary condition of the State.

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : Sir, in regard to that I may inform the honourable member that Government have been pleased to appoint a special malaria officer to go into the question deeply and very minutely and Government are awaiting his suggestions in the matter.

With regard to the supply of good drinking water to Muttam, I am glad to be able to inform the honourable member that the scarcity of water there was duly taken notice of by the Government and the Dewan was pleased to visit that place. Arrangements have already been made to procure good drinking water to that village by pumping water from Attinkarayar, that is near Valliyar and supplying water by means of distribution pipes. This gracious action of Government will mitigate the condition at Muttom in the near future.

President : The question before the House is that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 2,98,409 under Demand III—Public Health and Sanitation.

The Demand was then put to the vote of the House and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND IV—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

INCLUDING CAPITAL EXPENDITURE NOT CHARGED TO REVENUE.

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott : Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 48,45,136 under Demand IV—Public Works Department, including capital expenditure not charged to revenue.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai (*Quilon cum Kunnathur*): Sir, I wish to offer a few remarks on the working of this department, and I wish to concentrate my attention in regard to the policy followed by the present Chief Engineer in giving contracts and the system of calling for alternative designs along with the tenders which nullifies the safeguard sought to be effected by the system of tenders. Sir, in recent times it has been found that a large number of firms from outside have come to Travancore and have been given contracts for the execution of large and small works. In former days it has been found that it was possible with the help of the P. W. Department and the expert advice that the officers of the department used to get works of first rate magnitude completed by local contractors quite satisfactorily and there are many instances in Travancore as standing monuments to the creditable work done by Chief Engineers who have been the heads of this department. Sir, if it is not possible for the departmental officers to give the proper designs and call tenders on such designs and if they have to depend upon other people for the purpose of designs